IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Gottfried von BISMARCK

Divisional of Appl. No.: 09/671,585

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: December 1, 2003

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS

FOR ENCODING AND RECORDING IDENTIFYING

INDICIA FOR ARRAYS OF ROD-SHAPED COMMODITIES Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Atty. Docket No.: 31653-198560

Customer No.:

26694

Preliminary Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

Sir:

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Applicants request the entry of the following amendment prior to the examination of the above-identified application:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.

PC Docs: 501736